

5 FAH-1 H-300 MEMORANDUMS

5 FAH-1 H-310 USING MEMORANDUMS

(TL:CH-2; 05-30-1998)

5 FAH-1 H-311 GENERAL

(TL:CH-2; 05-30-1998)

a. Memorandums are used for routine communications within and between offices in the Department, posts and other Federal agencies.

b. This chapter contains procedures and format guidelines for drafting and preparing memorandums. See the *Secretariat Handbook* for guidelines for preparing memorandums to be signed by the Secretary and other Seventh-floor Principals.

5 FAH-1 H-312 TYPES OF MEMORANDUMS

5 FAH-1 H-312.1 Internal Memorandum

(TL:CH-2; 05-30-1998)

The internal memorandum is used for administrative or routine operational matters, or for background or other substantive information pertaining to program and policy matters within and between offices in the Department or at post (see 5 FAH-1 H-312 Exhibit H-312.1).

5 FAH-1 H-312.2 Interagency Memorandum

(TL:CH-2; 05-30-1998)

The interagency memorandum is used for informal correspondence with other Federal agencies on administrative or routine operational matters. The format varies according to the level of offices involved (see 5 FAH-1 H-312 Exhibit H-312.2).

5 FAH-1 H-312.3 Memorandum To File

A memorandum addressed to the "File", documents significant information that is otherwise not documented. Follow the format of an internal memorandum. Place the word "File" opposite the "TO" line.

5 FAH-1 H-312.4 Memorandum Of Conversation

(TL:CH-2; 05-30-1998)

A memorandum of conversation is used for substantive conversations between officers and foreign diplomatic officials, representatives of public and private organizations, Federal officials, or private individuals either in the Department or at post. Preparers should complete the Memorandum of Conversation on letterhead stationery as follows:

(1) If classified, show classification level at the top of the first page, flush with the left margin two lines below the seal. If unclassified or administratively controlled, show "UNCLASSIFIED" or SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED" at the top, flush with the left margin two lines below the seal.

(2) Center and underline "MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION" two lines below the classification.

(3) Double-space (one blank line) and enter the date. Line the date up with Washington, DC. Double-space before beginning the heading "SUBJECT:." Double-space after the subject before entering the headings "TAGS:," "PARTICIPANTS:," and "COPIES TO:."

(4) Enter the text two spaces (one blank line) below the last line of "COPIES TO:." Each paragraph should be numbered.

(5) Center the classification at the bottom of the page, and add the declassification instructions directly below it on the first page only. Center the classification at the top and bottom of each additional page (see 5 FAH-1 H-313). In the lower left corner of the first page only, enter the name and position of the original classification authority on the "Classified By" line, with the agency and office of origin unless it is otherwise indicated. Directly below this line, enter the reason(s) for classification, citing the appropriate category (ies) from Section 1.5, E.O. 12958. See 5 FAH-1 H-312 Exhibit H-312.4. Show drafting and clearing information on all copies. Refer to 5 FAH-1 H-313 for further guidance. See 5 FAH-1 H-325.9 for declassification and downgrading instructions for memorandums with attachments.

5 FAH-1 H-312.5 Briefing Memorandum

(TL:CH-2; 05-30-1998)

Officers must prepare a Briefing Memorandum for the Secretary and other seventh-floor principals to provide background information, notices of appointments and information regarding meetings, ceremonial, or public occasions. See the *Secretariat Handbook* for drafting and formatting guidelines.

5 FAH-1 H-312.6 Information Memorandum

(TL:CH-2; 05-30-1998)

Officers must prepare an Information Memorandum to brief the Secretary or other seventh-floor principals on events, projects or policy matters. An Information Memorandum may be generated as a result of matters of interest or in response to a specific request. Consult the *Secretariat Handbook* for drafting and formatting guidelines.

5 FAH-1 H-312.7 Action Memorandum

(TL:CH-2; 05-30-1998)

Officers must prepare an Action Memorandum for the Secretary and other seventh-floor principals. These memorandums require decisions from or action by the recipients. See the *Secretariat Handbook* for drafting and formatting guidelines.

5 FAH-1 H-312.8 Staff Study

(TL:CH-2; 05-30-1998)

a. Officers must prepare a staff study for the Secretary or other seventh-floor Principals to resolve an issue or make a policy decision. A staff study can also be used at other levels in the Department and at post. Include two main headings, "Discussion" and "Recommendation." Add a "Background" paragraph, when appropriate, preceding these two headings. State the recommendation(s) clearly and briefly. If making more than one recommendation, number them consecutively.

b. The Staff Study is usually attached to an action or briefing memorandum. If the memorandum is classified, place classification at the top and bottom and follow instructions in 5 FAH-1 H-313. See 5 FAH-1 H-312 Exhibit H-312.8.

5 FAH-1 H-312.9 Routing And Transmittal Slip (Form OF-41)

(TL:CH-2; 05-30-1998)

a. Form OF-41 is used to forward routine correspondence, documents, and other material for action or information when detailed instructions, explanations, or comments are unnecessary and no record of the transmittal is needed. Information on the form may be handwritten or typed (be sure to initial by printed name if form is typed). Users should check one of the appropriate boxes listed or add remarks to indicate the reason for the transmittal (see 5 FAH-1 H-312 Exhibit H-312.9).

b. Transmittal slips should not be used to record approvals or other important action or information.

c. Transmittal slips should be copied only when the transmittal office retains a copy for a limited time in case the material is not received.

d. When using FORM OF-41 for classified or administratively controlled material (SBU), it must bear the same classification or control designation it covers (see 12 FAM 600).

5 FAH-1 H-313 SECURITY CLASSIFICATION/DECLASSIFICATION

(TL:CH-2; 05-30-1998)

a. Classified memorandums must be classified by an original classification authority and marked according to section 1.7, E.O. 12958. Each element (title, paragraph, section, table or chart) must be appropriately marked (C), (S), or (TS). The overall classification must be the same as the highest classification level of any part of the memorandum. See 5 FAH-1 H-100, 5 FAH-1 H-132 and 12 FAM 500 for more information on marking classified information.

b. On the first page, place the classification at the left margin two lines below the seal, underlined in capital letters, directly above the word MEMORANDUM. Center the classification at the bottom, and place the classification at the top and bottom of succeeding pages.

c. At the bottom of the first page, directly below the classification, enter the following:

(1) Classified By: followed by the name and title of the original classification authority, and the agency of origin (unless otherwise indicated).

(2) The reason(s) for classification with the appropriate classification category(ies) from Section 1.5, E.O. 12958 declassification instructions. See H-131 Exhibit H-131.

See 5 FAH-1 H-325.9 for declassification and downgrading instructions for memorandums with classified attachments. See 5 FAH-1 H-313 Exhibit H-313 and 12 FAM 500 for additional information on marking classified information.

5 FAH-1 H-314 THROUGH H-319 UNASSIGNED

5 FAH-1 H-312 Exhibit H-312.1

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM—DEPARTMENT

(TL:CH-2; 05-30-1998)



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

MEMORANDUM

October 1, 1997

TO: A/IM/RM - Mr. Jonathan Doe

FROM: A/IM/RM/IAP - John Dobson

SUBJECT: Sample Internal Memorandum

TAGS: AINF

This exhibit shows how to prepare a basic one-page internal memorandum on Department or Post letterhead stationery.

Allow at least one-inch margins on all sides. Include the date only if the memorandum will be signed the same day. Place the date on the line opposite "MEMORANDUM" and align with the "W" in Washington, D.C. Each memorandum must contain "TO," "FROM," "SUBJECT," and "TAGS" lines.

Enter text in block style, single spaced with double spaces between paragraphs. One-paragraph memorandums may be double-spaced. List and describe attachments directly under the heading "Attachment(s):". Number more than one attachment consecutively. Show distribution (office symbol followed by a colon, initial(s) and last name) for information copies under the heading "cc:" flush with the left margin, two lines below the last line of text or "Attachment(s)."

The signing officer places initials on the "FROM" line immediately after the printed name. At the drafter's discretion, show drafting information on the original, at least two lines below "Attachment(s):" or "cc:". Include in the drafting information the drafter's officer symbol followed by a colon, initials and last name, preparer's initials (if other than drafting officer), and the date prepared.

Continuation - 5 FAH-1 H-312 Exhibit H-312.1

-2-

This exhibit shows a sample page two of an internal memorandum. Prepare page two on plain bond paper. Center the page number as shown at least two lines below the top margin. Begin text three lines below the page number.

List attachments two lines below the text. Enter the word "Attachment(s):" and number, and describe briefly (do not number one attachment). Show drafting and clearance information on the original and all copies (at the drafter's discretion), approximately two lines below "Attachment(s)" or "cc:."

The signing officer initials in ink after the printed name on the "FROM" line. If there is a "THRU" line, the clearing officer also initials after the printed name.

Attachment(s):

1. Describe briefly
2. Number consecutively

cc:

A/IM/IAP/RG:JCGoode 4/10/97

Clearance: A/IM/RM/AS:HABlake

Continuation - 5 FAH-1 H-312 Exhibit H-312.1

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM—POST



Embassy of the United States of America

Tokyo, Japan

MEMORANDUM

January 15, 1997

TO: The Ambassador

FROM: DCM - John A. Doe

SUBJECT: Sample Internal Memorandum on Post Letterhead

TAGS: AINF

REF: Your Memorandum, January 2, 1997

This exhibit shows the format for an internal memorandum prepared on either regular or special letterhead stationery.

Each memorandum should have "TO," "FROM," "SUBJECT," and "TAGS" lines. If a reference line is needed, show the abbreviation "REF:" two lines below and flush with the "TAGS" line. Align the reference(s) entry with the "SUBJECT" line.

Include the date at the time of preparation unless the memorandum is to be signed in another office and may not be signed the day it is typed. Enter the date on the same line as "MEMORANDUM," flush with the first letter of the printed letterhead.

Enter the text, any attachment list, and distribution of copies, if any, in the same format shown in the exhibit for the Department. When memorandums are prepared for signature in another office, the signing officer may prefer that the drafting information not be shown on the original.

Keep the number of copies to a minimum, providing a courtesy copy only when necessary.

5 FAH-1 H-312 Exhibit H-312.2 INTERAGENCY MEMORANDUM

(TL:CH-2; 05-30-1998)



Embassy of the United States of America

Tokyo, Japan

MEMORANDUM

February 15, 1997

TO: DOD - Mr. Frank M. Black

FROM: ADMIN - Robert A. Brown

SUBJECT: Interagency Memorandums

Memorandums may be used for informal correspondence with other Federal agencies, usually on administrative or routine matters. Such memorandums are prepared on Department or Post letterhead stationery. This exhibit shows the format for an interagency memorandum on post letterhead stationery when it is not necessary to include the titles of the addressee or signing officer. Align the date with the first letter in the printed letterhead. Do not put a "TAGS" line on memorandums going outside of the Department or Post. An example of the format for the "TO" and "FROM" lines for a similar type memorandum prepared on Department letterhead stationery follows:

TO: DOD/AS/CR - Mr. Richard M. Roe

FROM: STATE/M/P - John A. Doe

Enter the text in the same format shown in Exhibit H-312.1. Include the attachment(s), if any, on the original and all copies. Do not show drafting and clearance information on the original or courtesy copies. Show this information only on the copies to be retained in the Department or Post. Always make an official record copy, and restrict the number of information copies to those required on a strict need-to-know basis. Clear memorandum as appropriate.

Attachments:

1. Describe briefly
2. Number consecutively

Continuation - 5 FAH-1 H-312 Exhibit H-312.2



United States Department of State

***Assistant Secretary of State
for Administration***

Washington, D.C. 20520

MEMORANDUM

April 12, 1997

TO: Ms. Helen M. Jones
Director, Office of Management Planning
Agency for International Development

FROM: Richard W. Smith

SUBJECT: Interagency Memorandum on Special Letterhead

This exhibit shows an interagency memorandum on special letterhead stationery. Those offices that are entitled to special letterhead stationery may use it for either internal or interagency memorandums. For internal memorandums on special letterhead, follow the format in 5 FAH-1 H-312 Exhibit H-312.1. Use plain white bond paper for succeeding pages. Align the date with the letterhead. Use either this sample format for the "TO" and "FROM" lines or the informal format on page 1 of this exhibit, depending on the level and/or preference of the signing officer.

Always include an official record copy of an interagency memorandum. Do not show drafting or clearance information on the original or courtesy copy, if any.

The signing officer initials in ink beside the printed name on both the original and record copy. If clearances are necessary, clearing officers must initial beside their names on the record copy. The drafting officer may initial for the clearing officers if clearances are by phone, draft, or E-mail.

Place drafting, clearance, and TAGS information on file copies, or use a drafting page (see 5 FAH-1 H-325 Exhibit H-325.10).

5 FAH-1 H-312 Exhibit H-312.4

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

(TL:CH-2; 05-30-1998)



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

DATE: May 3, 1997

SUBJECT: Permission For French Military Aircraft To Land In The U.S.

TAGS: AINF

PARTICIPANTS: FRENCH EMBASSY

Pierre Cousteau, Ambassador
Jacques D-Angneau, Economic Counselor
Jean LaFitte Civil Air Attache

UNITED STATES

Thomas Caldwell, Office of Aviation
Samuel Shrum, Aviation Negotiations Division

COPIES: EB/EX EUR/EX AmEmbassy Paris
EB/TT EUR/WE EB/TT/OA

1. (U) This exhibit shows a Memorandum of Conversation. If the memorandum is classified, enter the classification at the top flush with the left margin two lines below the seal. Center and underline "**MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION**," two lines below the seal or classification. Place the date two lines below the heading flush with the first letter in the printed letterhead. Use the other headings in this sample, aligning entries as shown.

2. (C) Begin text flush with the left margin. Enter the "Classified by" line, the reason for classification, the "declassify on" line at the bottom left on the first page only. Show drafting and clearance information on file copies only. See 5 FAH-1 H-312.4 for additional information.

CONFIDENTIAL

Classified by: GBKook, Director, EUR/A, Department of State, Reason 1.5(B)
Declassify on: 7/15/99

CLASSIFIED FOR EXHIBIT PURPOSES ONLY

5 FAH-1 H-312 Exhibit H-312.8

STAFF STUDY

(TL:CH-2; 05-30-1998)



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

MEMORANDUM

January 5, 1997

TO: A/IM/RM - Ms. Joan A. Doe

FROM: A/EX - Richard A. Doey

SUBJECT: Preparing a Staff Study

TAGS: AINF

Background:

Prepare a staff study on letterhead stationery or special letterhead.

Discussion:

Limit the text to one page and arrange information under two main headings: "Discussion" and "Recommendation." When appropriate, add a "Background" heading preceding these two headings in single-spacing, flush with the left margin. Leave three lines between "TAGS:" and "Background."

Recommendation:

If there is more than one recommendation, number them consecutively. Place the words "Approved" and "Disapproved" two lines below each recommendation, indented 10 spaces from the left margin. Add a line for the date of approval (indented 10 spaces) after the final recommendation. Show drafting and clearance information on the original at the drafter's discretion, but enter this information on all file copies.

Approved

Disapproved

Date

5 FAH-1 H-312 Exhibit H-312.9

ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

(FORM OF-41)

(TL:CH-2; 05-30-1998)

ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP			Date
			June 7, 1997
TO: (Name, office symbol, room number, building, Agency/Post)		Initials	Date
1. Ruth Doe A/IM/IAP Rm. 4230 MS			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File	<input type="checkbox"/> Note and Return	
<input type="checkbox"/> Approval	<input type="checkbox"/> For Clearance	<input type="checkbox"/> Per Conversation	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> As Requested	<input type="checkbox"/> For Correction	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Reply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Circulate	<input type="checkbox"/> For Your Information	<input type="checkbox"/> See Me	
<input type="checkbox"/> Comment	<input type="checkbox"/> Investigate	<input type="checkbox"/> Signature	
<input type="checkbox"/> Coordination	<input type="checkbox"/> Justify		
REMARKS Use Form OF-41 as a transmittal to forward routine correspondence, documents, and other material for action or information. Check the appropriate box on the form or add remarks.			
DO NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disposals, clearances, and similar actions.			
FROM: (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post)		Room No.—Bldg.	
John L. Doe, A/IM/IAP/RG		4000	
		Phone No.	
		x70000	
5041-102		OPTIONAL FORM 41 (Rev. 7-76)	
U.S. GPO: 1990 - 262-080		Prescribed by GSA	
		FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.206	

5 FAH-1 H-313 Exhibit H-313 CLASSIFIED MEMORANDUM

(TL:CH-2; 05-30-1998)



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

SECRET **MEMORANDUM**

June 13, 1997

TO: All Cleared Employees
FROM: DS/PRD/IF - J. F. Smith
SUBJECT: Sample Classified Memorandum (U)
TAGS: AINF

1. (S) This example of a classified memorandum shows the proper format for marking classified documents in accordance with E.O. 12958 guidelines. The policy is to mark each and every paragraph, subparagraph, section, etc. to eliminate doubt as to which portions contain or reveal classified information.

a. (C) It is important to understand portion marking requirements, i.e., that the recipient of a classified document is entitled to know what the classification of each portion is or that some portions are not classified.

b. (S) If this portion of paragraph one contained SECRET information, it would be so marked. Charts and illustrations also require proper markings in a classified document.

2. (U) This paragraph is UNCLASSIFIED, as indicated, and has been developed to emphasize that each and every paragraph or part thereof should be marked.

3. C) Enter a "Classified by" line, reason for classification, or the "derived from" line. Enter the declassification instructions. Specify a date, event, or exemption category. Enter this information at the bottom of the first page only.

SECRET

Classified by: E. Doe, Deputy Assistant Secretary, A/RPS, Department of State. Reason 1.5(B)

Declassify on: 6/13/99

CLASSIFIED FOR EXHIBIT PURPOSES ONLY

Continuation – 5 FAH-1 H-313 Exhibit H-313



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

SECRET
MEMORANDUM

June 13, 1997

TO: All Cleared Employees

FROM: DS/PRD/IF - J. F. Smith

SUBJECT: Marking Transmittal Documents (U)

TAGS: AINF

1. (C) This sample shows how to mark a CONFIDENTIAL transmittal document with a SECRET attachment. It also describes how to mark an UNCLASSIFIED transmittal document that has a classified attachment.
2. (U) If an attachment to a transmittal is classified higher than the transmittal itself, the highest classification is entered at the top and bottom of the first page and a notation, such as "DOWNGRADE TO CONFIDENTIAL WHEN SEPARATED FROM ATTACHMENT," is added to show the classification of the transmittal itself. A classified transmittal must also be marked to show the classification of its portions, its SUBJECT line, its appropriate declassification markings, and any other additional security markings that are appropriate for any of the information it contains. When a classified transmittal consists of two or more pages, the second and following pages are marked with the classification of the information appearing therein.
3. (C) An UNCLASSIFIED transmittal carrying a classified attachment is marked with the highest classification of the attachment with a notation such as "UNCLASSIFIED WHEN SEPARATED FROM ATTACHMENTS" on the first page only. Also include on the first page any additional markings appropriate for the attachment(s), since the transmittal itself contains no classified information.
4. (U) Transmittals are always marked with the highest classification of information being transmitted. Notations, as appropriate, are added to show the classification of the transmittal when the attachments are removed or that it is unclassified upon removal of attachments.

Attachment:
Point Paper

SECRET
DOWNGRADE TO CONFIDENTIAL WHEN
SEPARATED FROM SECRET ATTACHMENT

Classified by: 96 State 12345, Reason 1.5(B)
Declassify on: 7/13/2006

CLASSIFIED FOR EXHIBIT PURPOSES ONLY